



Growing
ideas
through
networks

COST

European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Introduction to the COST Framework Programme



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

Outline

- What is COST and how does it work?
- What are the COST Actions and how to participate in them?
- How to prepare a successful proposal?



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What is COST and how does it work?

What is COST?

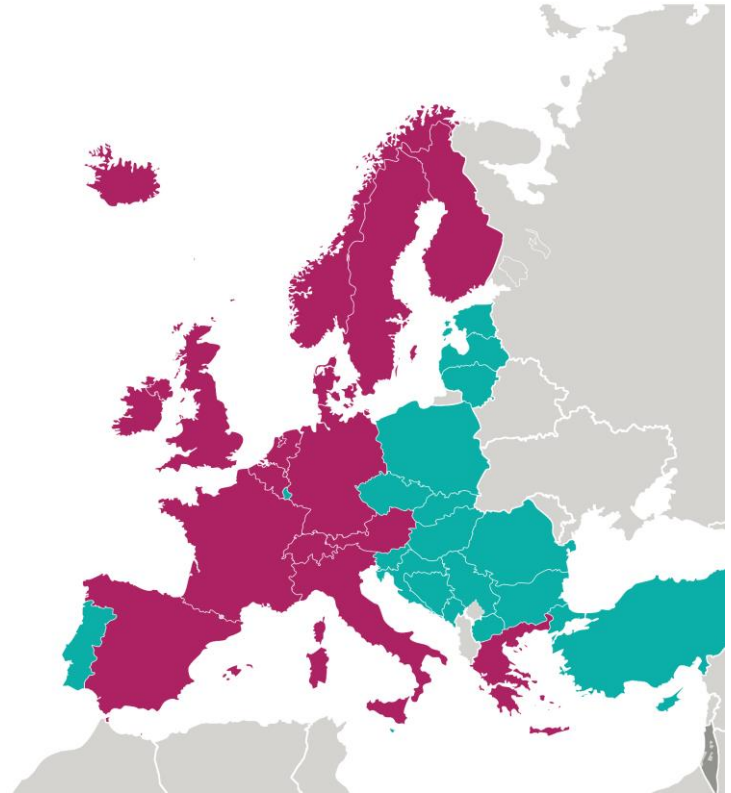
COST (CO-operation in Science and Technology) is the longest-running European framework supporting cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars by enabling them to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social sciences and humanities.

COST – 45 years of research collaboration

- 36 COST Members

Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- 1 Cooperating Member
Israel

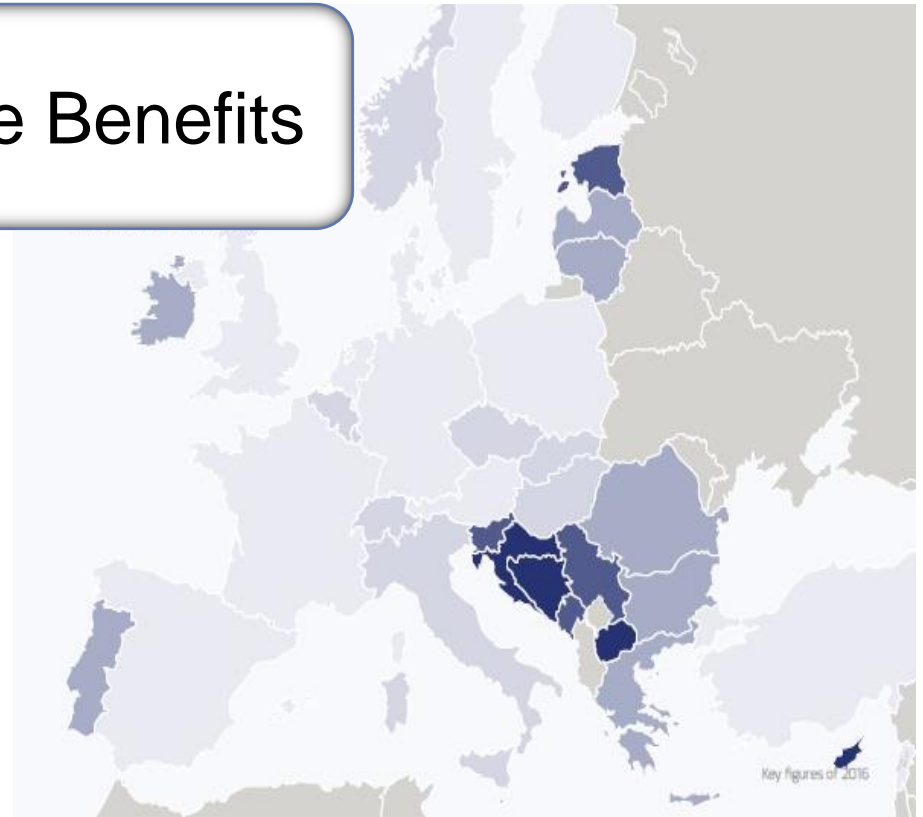
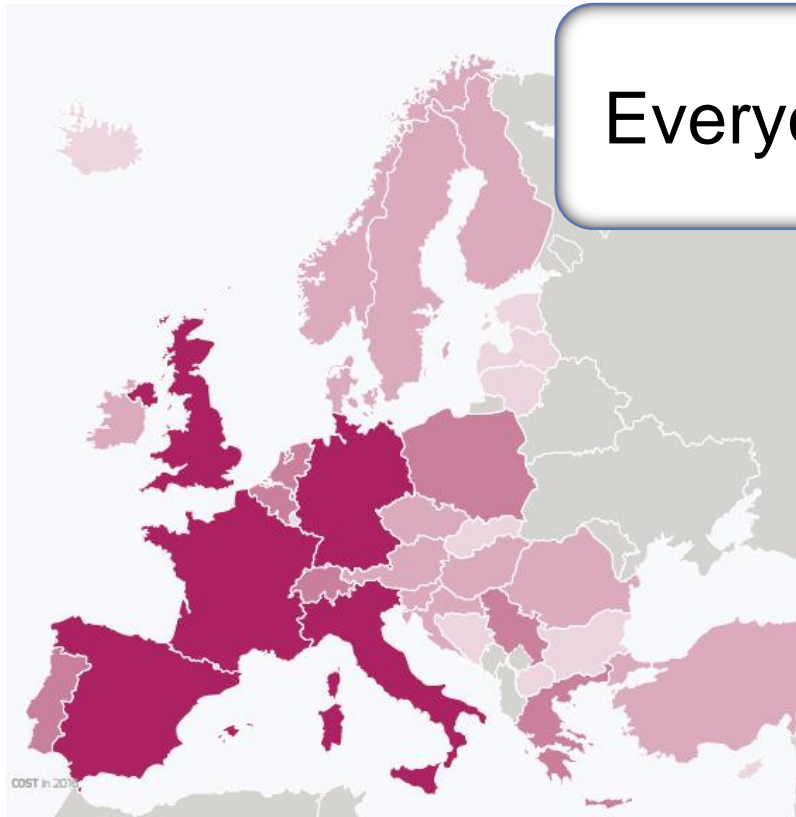


Role of COST in the ERA – 3 Strategic Priorities

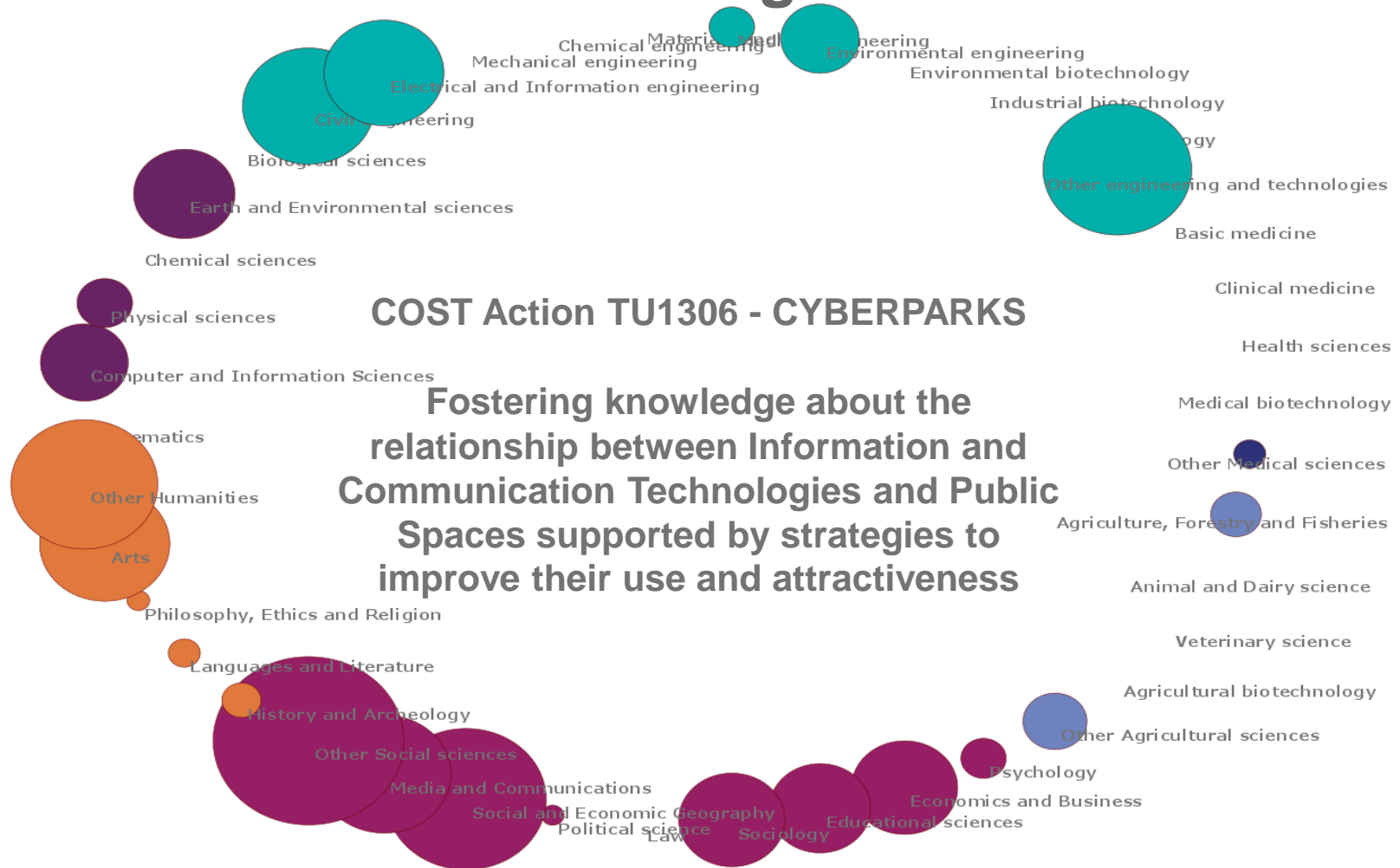
- 1 Promoting and spreading excellence
- 2 Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
- 3 Boosting careers young researchers

Priority 1. Promoting and spreading excellence

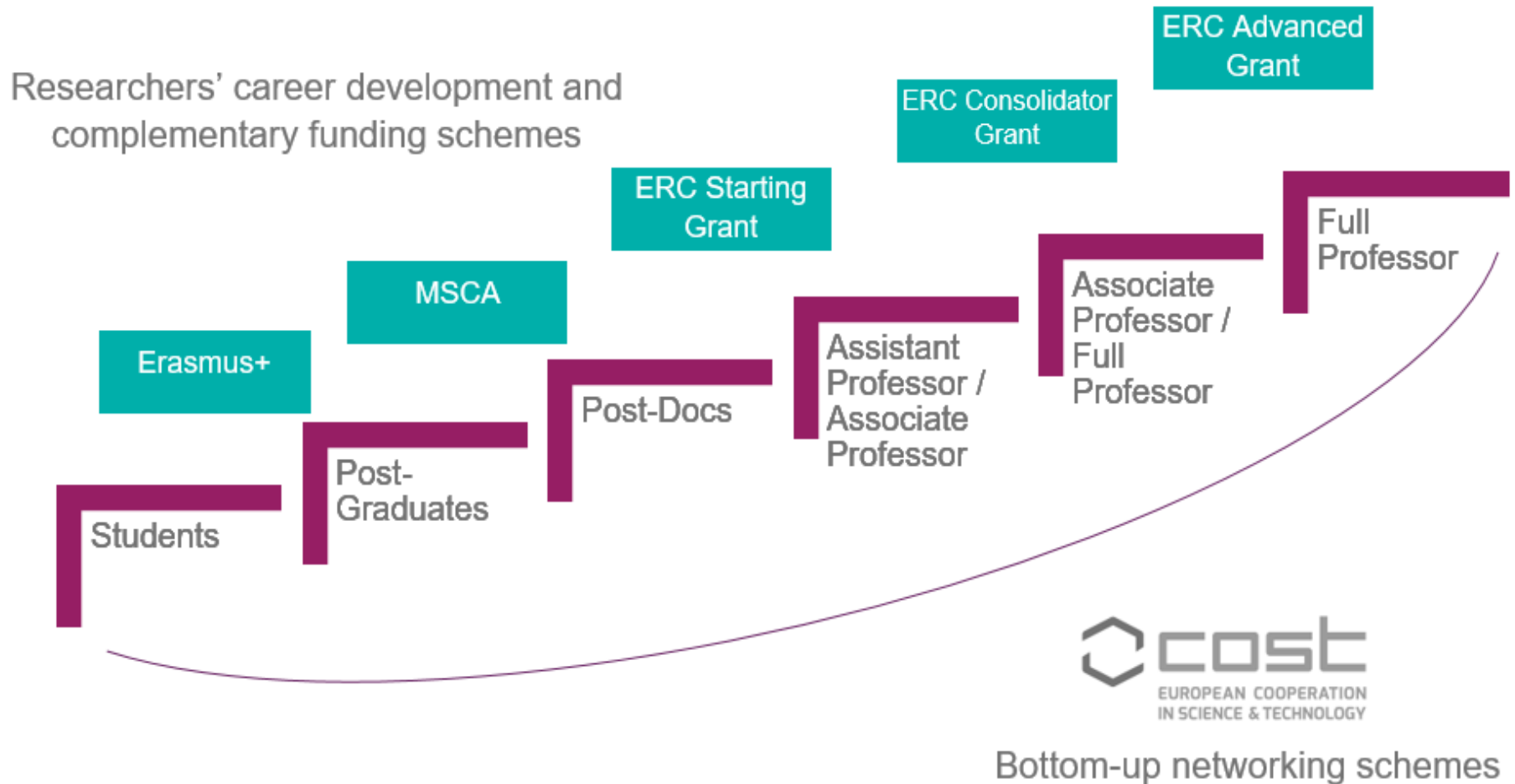
Everyone Benefits



Priority 2. Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science



Priority 3. Boosting careers of young researchers



Open Space where ideas and people can grow

- Create / join a community of practice
- Access to data and information
- Provide experience and career opportunities
- Increase visibility and make an impact
- Complementary to research projects

Why Networks?

- Knowledge sharing leads to...
 - Common understanding of problems at hand
 - Coordinated activities
 - Pooling resources
 - Reduced risks
 - Synthesis and re-combination of spread pieces of knowledge
 - Innovation
 - Synergies ($1+1>2$)

Core policies



Excellence and inclusiveness (widening the European research base)

- Strengthening the excellence through cross-border networking of researchers
- Promoting geographical, age and gender balance throughout its activities and operations

Specific objectives

- International cooperation (mutual benefit, NNC,...)
- Industrial dimension (dedicated dissemination and exploitation activities)



COST Inclusiveness Target Countries

● EU 13

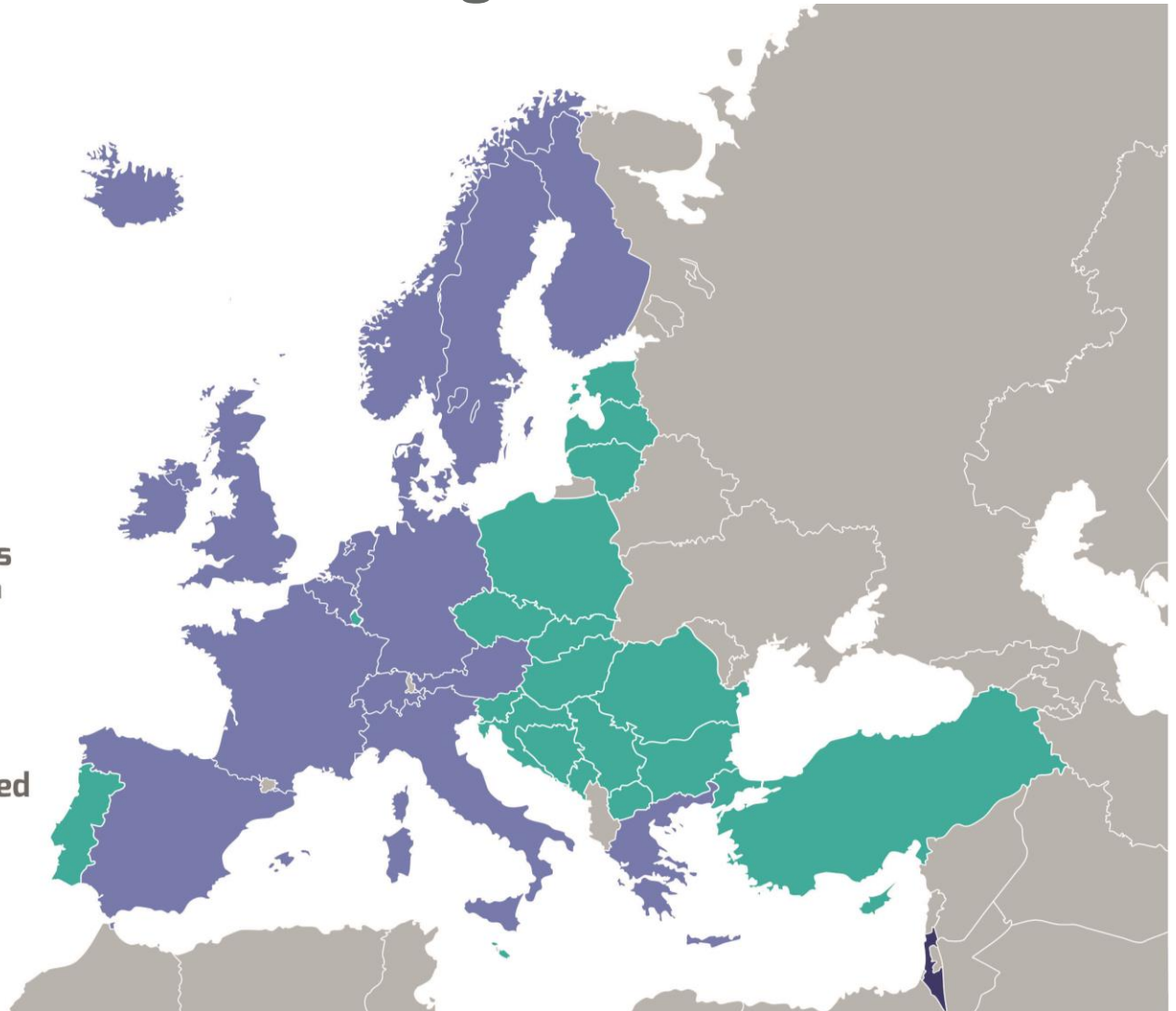
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia

EU Candidates and Potential Candidates

Bosnia and Herzegovina
fYR Macedonia
Montenegro
Republic of Serbia
Turkey

EU countries targeted by the European Commission:

Luxembourg
Portugal

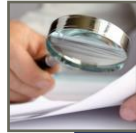


Dedicated measures for active ITC participation



COST Info Days

- Targeted to ITC
- combined with high-level meeting ITC government, including NCP



Proposals

- Eligibility
- External experts
- Inclusiveness policy



COST Actions

- COST Action Leadership
- Conference grant for PhD students and young researchers
- Pre-payment for STSM



COST Academy

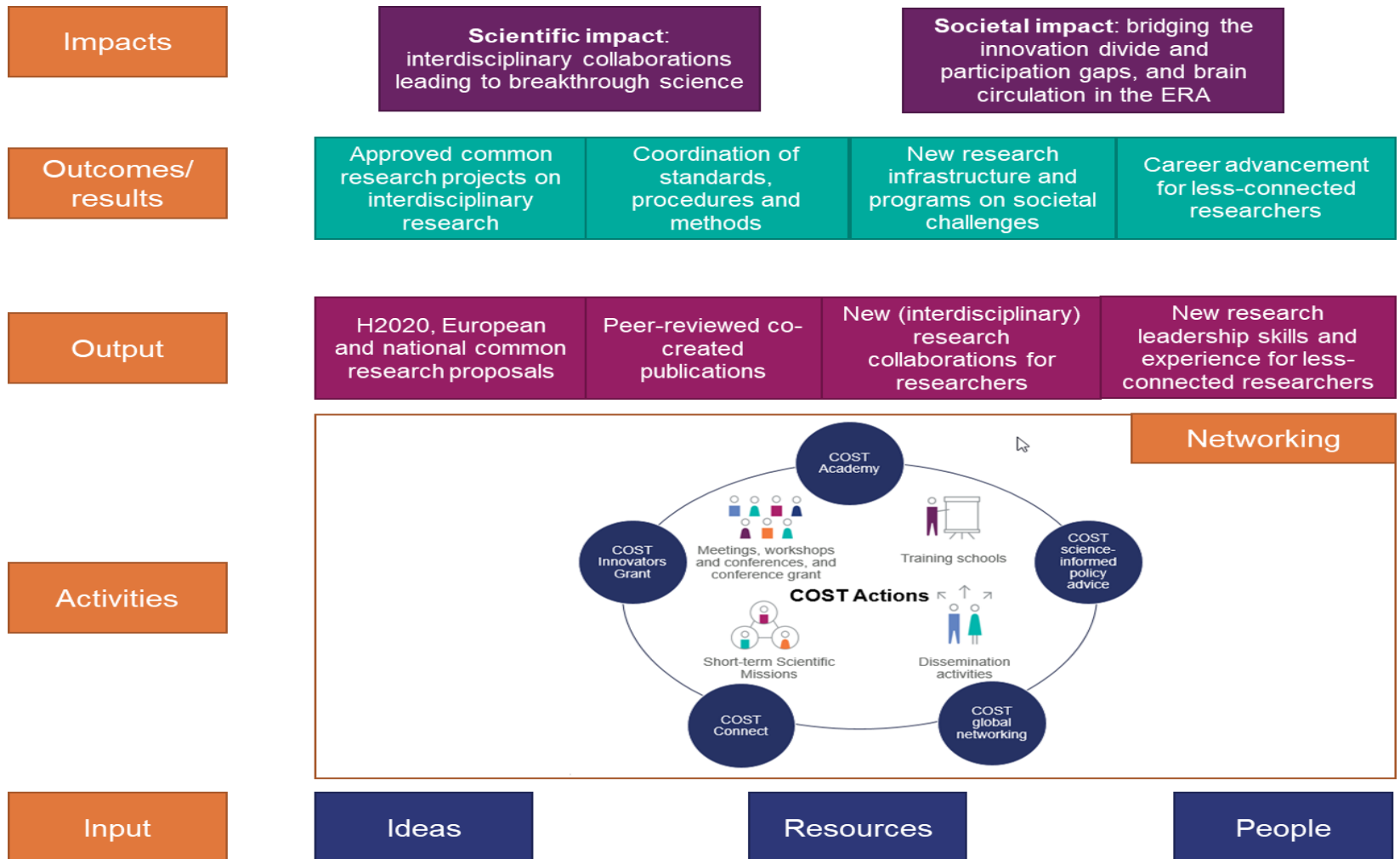
- Leadership workshop
- Finance/Admin workshop
- Science Communication training
- Mentoring GH
- Mentoring Chair



Reasons for participation of SME's: Network and Information driven

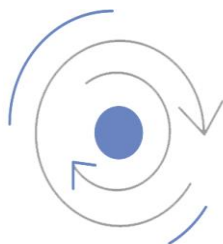
- Participation in COST Actions allow SME's:
 - To find partners for research projects and proposals
 - To stay up-to-date with new research
 - To exploit new technologies
 - To retrieve first-hand information
 - To know the key researchers in a specific field
 - To increase European/international visibility

Targeted impact assessment of participation of non-academic
partners in COST Actions (2016 Study)



COST key figures

352



Running Actions

258

Training schools



2,705

Short-term scientific missions



48,000

Researchers involved



€129,000

Average annual budget of a
COST Action

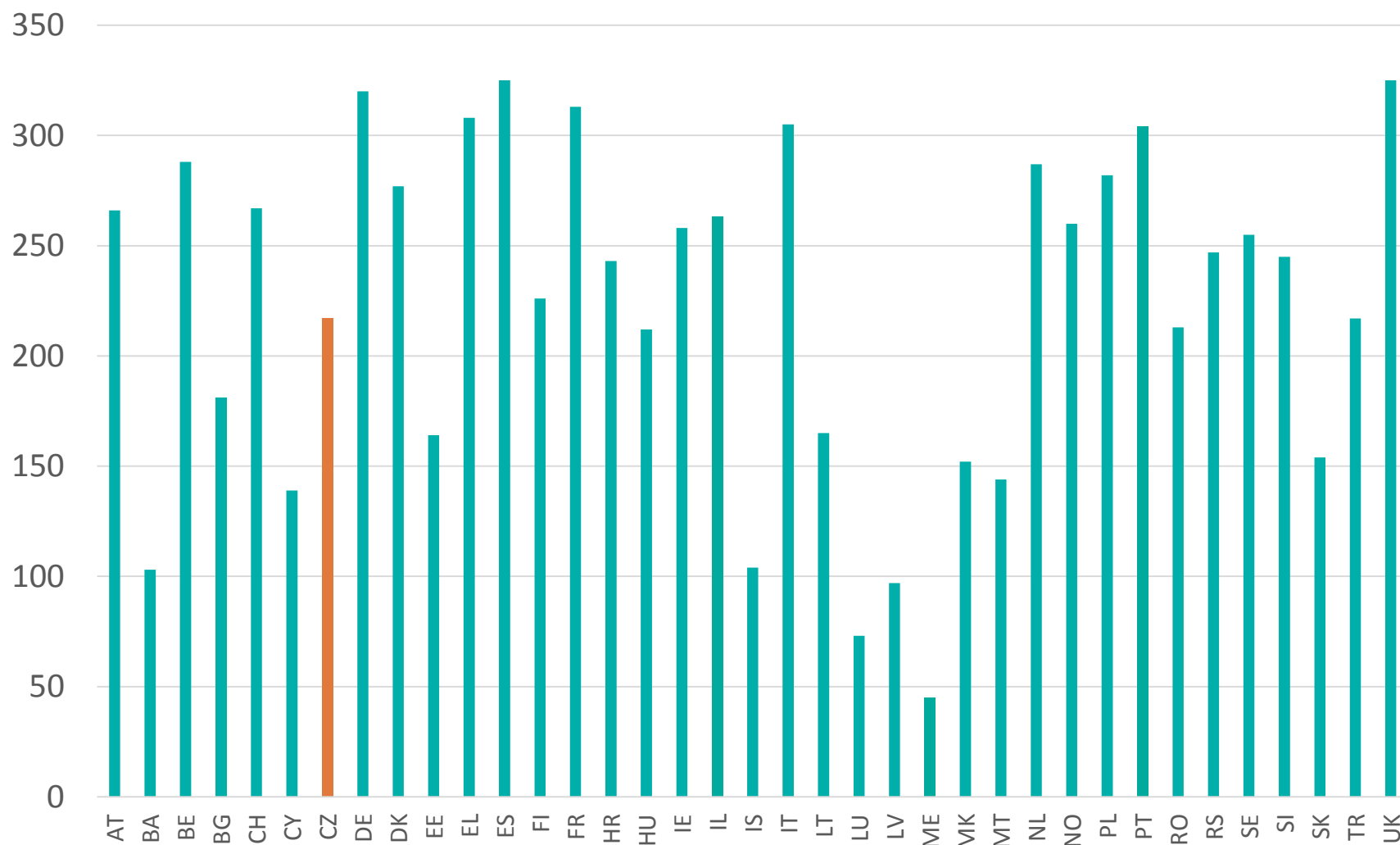
COST budget
(from Horizon
2020 for a
7-year period)

€300 million



*Data throughout the year 2016

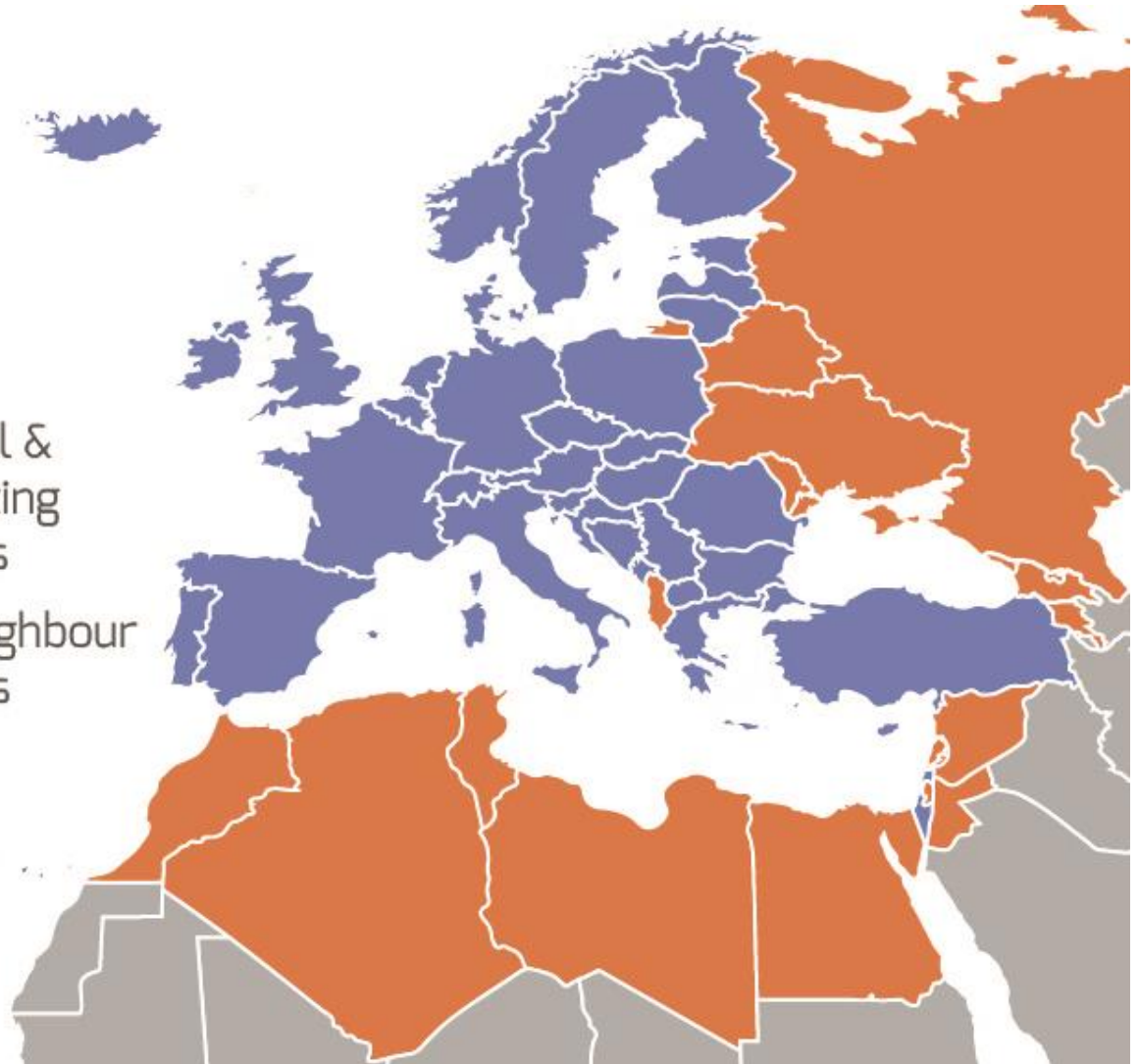
COST members' Action participation in 2016



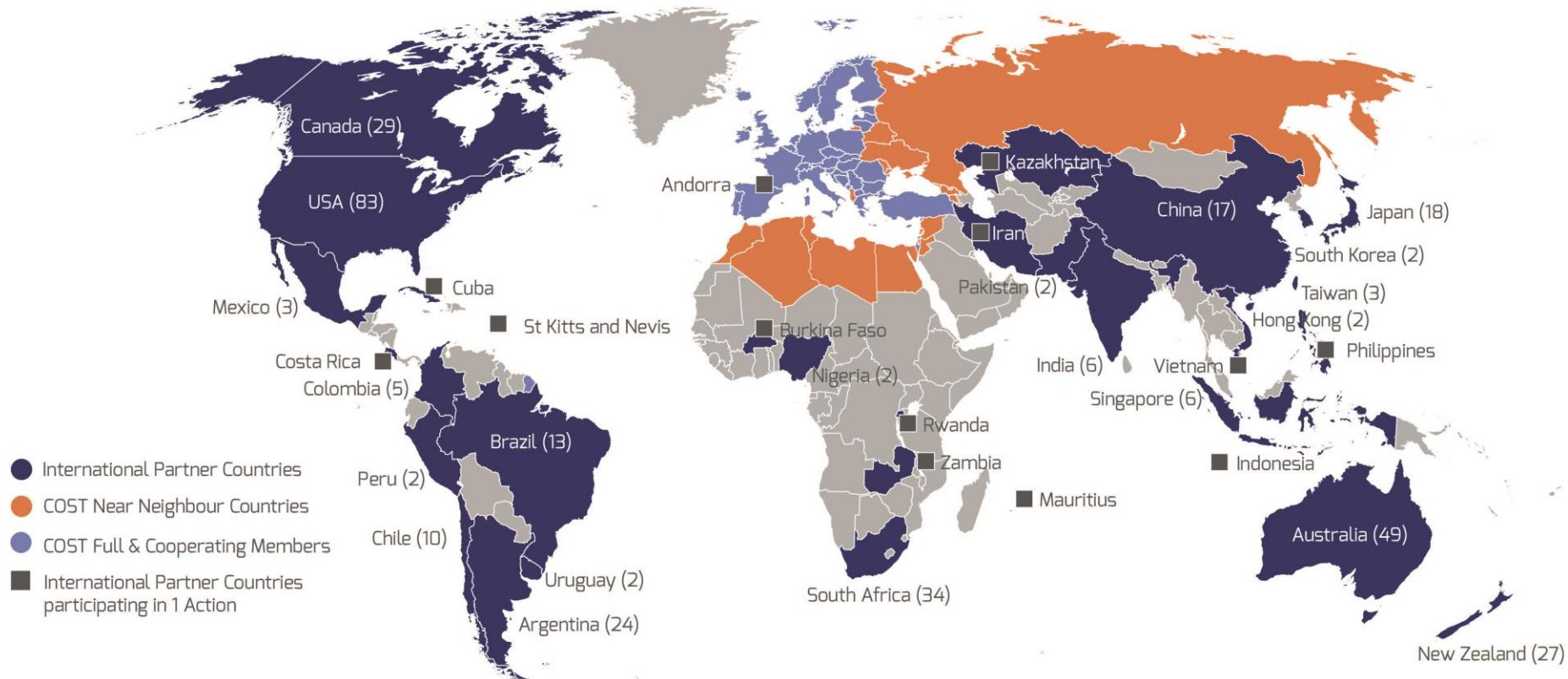
Near Neighbour Countries

Albania 33
Algeria 5
Armenia 17
Azerbaijan 1
Belarus 8
Egypt 10
Georgia 6
Jordan 6
Lebanon 2
Morocco 5
Palestinian
Auth 6
Moldova 12
Russia 62
Tunisia 16
Ukraine 54

- COST Full & Cooperating Members
- Near Neighbour Countries



International Partner Countries





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What are COST Actions?

Action Features

- Open and expandable participation

Open to all stakeholders, type of institutions, career levels, countries, at any time

- Bottom-up approach

researcher driven, any topic/ multiple topics

- Flexible and light administration

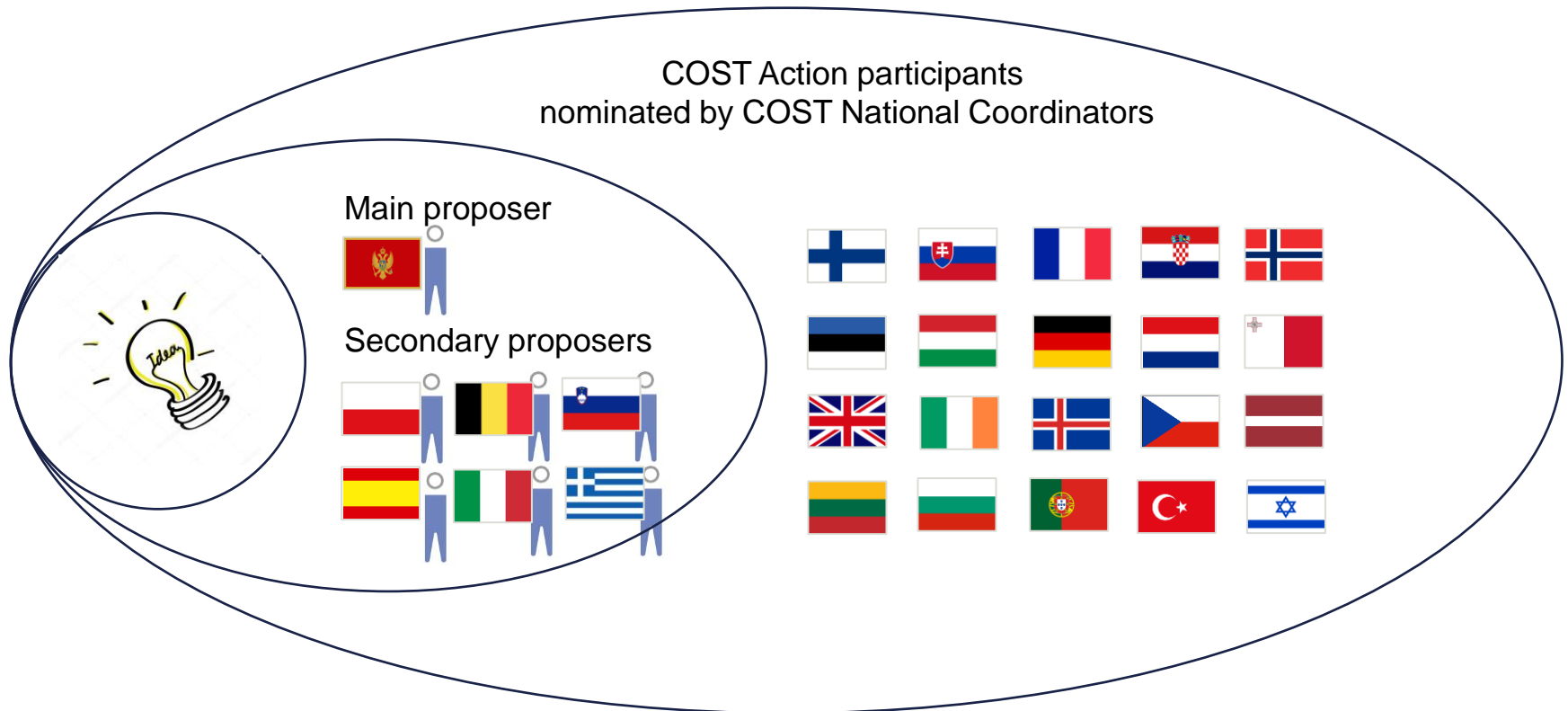
adaptable research and activities, light reporting

- Output and impact oriented

open science, wide sharing of knowledge and results, open access, open innovation

COST Actions

How do they start?



COST Actions

Network



Memorandum of Understanding



4 years



Min 7 countries

€ ~500 000 euros over lifetime



Research coordination and capacity building activities

Networking tools

Research
coordination
&
Capacity
building
activities



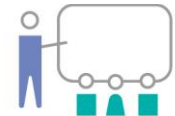
Management
Committee meeting



Working Group
meeting



Conferences



Training Schools



Dissemination



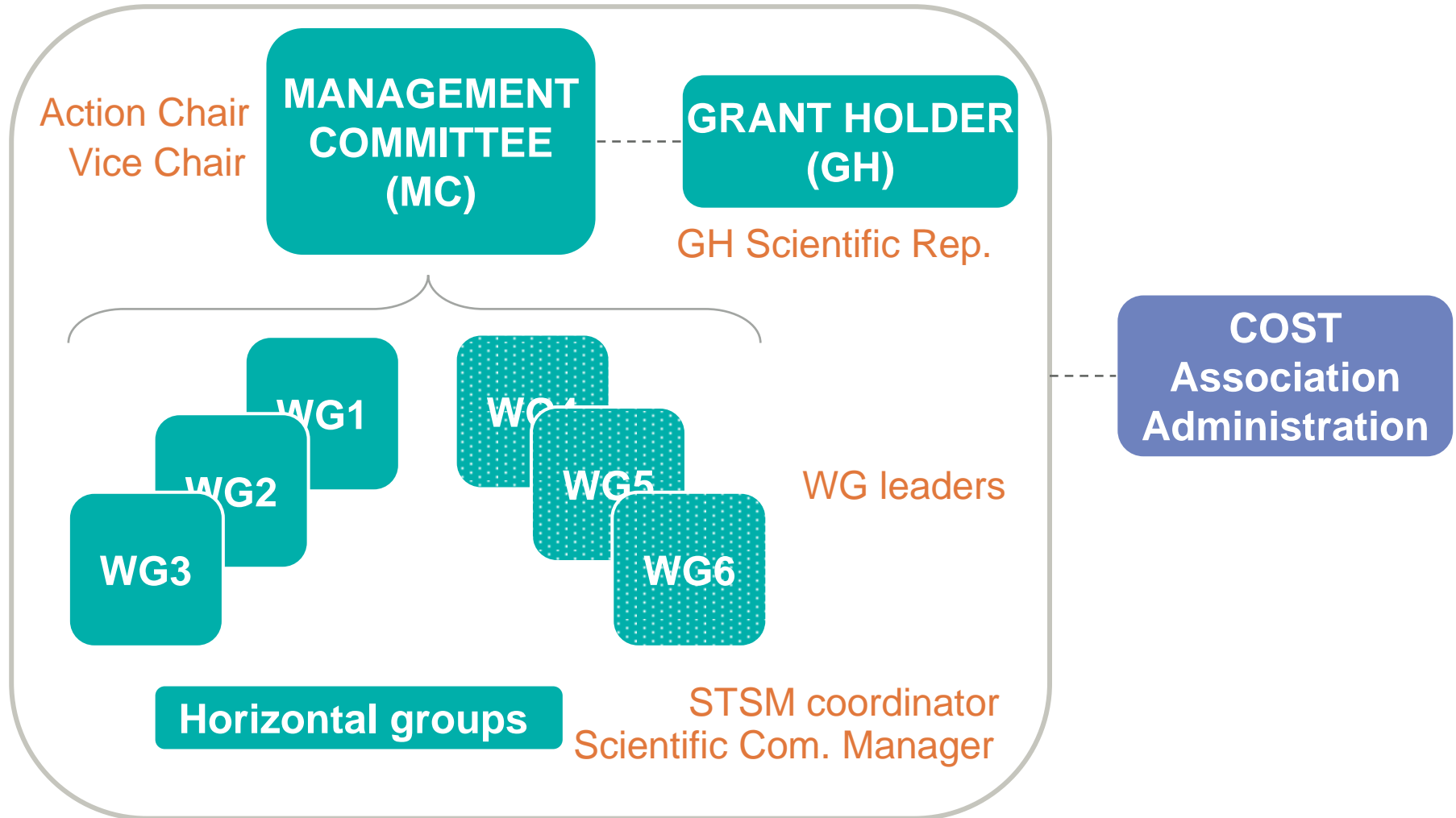
Scientific missions



COST Action Structure



Leadership Positions



How to engage with COST?



1. As **participant** of a running COST Action
2. As **proposer** of a COST Action
3. As **expert** to evaluate submitted proposals



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Engage as participant of a running COST Action

How to find the relevant COST Action?

Full text search

chemistry

☐ search in title only

Action number

☐ only Action Chairs
from [Inclusiveness Target Countries](#)

Approval Year

YYYY

e.g. 2010

Open Call Collection Date

YY

e.g.

Sta

CS

Home | COST Actions | Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies (CMST) | CM1404 | Management Committee

CMST COST Action CM1404

Management Committee

MC Chair	▶ Dr Mara DE JOANNON (IT)
MC Vice Chair	▶ Dr George SKEVIS (EL)

Working Group Leaders

WG Leader	▶ Dr Frédérique BATTIN-LECLERC
WG Leader	▶ Prof Maria U. ALZUETA
WG Leader	▶ Dr Stefan VOSS
WG Leader	▶ Dr Edward S. BLUROCK
WG Leader	▶ Prof Alessandro PARENTE

■ Data registration in e-COST pending subject to online registration and nomination acceptance by nominee.

COST Participants

Country	MC Member
Austria	▶ Prof Franz WINTER
Austria	▶ Dr Peter PRIESCHING
Belgium	▶ Prof Kevin VAN GEEM
Belgium	▶ Prof Alessandro PARENTE
Bosnia and Herzegovina	▶ Prof Petar GVERO
Bulgaria	▶ Prof Iliyana NAYDENOVA

Websites*

Action website:
<http://www.smartcats.eu>

Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies COST Action CM1404

- ▶ Description
- ▶ Parties
- ▶ Management Committee

General Information*

Chair of the Action:
[Dr Mara DE JOANNON \(IT\)](#)

Vice Chair of the Action:
[Dr George SKEVIS \(EL\)](#)

Science officer of the Action:
[Dr Lucia FORZI](#)

Administrative officer of the Action:
[Ms Svetlana VOINOVA](#)

Downloads*

Action Fact Sheet
[Download AFS as .RTF](#)

Memorandum of Understanding
[Download MoU as PDF](#)

CMST COST Action CM1404 Chemistry of Smart Materials and Technologies (SMAT)

The primary aim of the project is to create a network of world leading academic and industrial partners in order to increase fuel efficiency, production and to support a sustainable approach to accomplish the development of smart energy conversion and storage. On the other hand, the intended exploitation of the project is to improve the understanding of the formation of smart energy conversion and storage. On the other hand, the intended exploitation of the project is to improve the understanding of the formation of smart energy conversion and storage.

(Descriptions are provided in the project website)

▶ show all Actions on one page

Search for COST Action

Full text search

☐ search in title only

Action number

☐ only Action Chairs
from [Inclusiveness Target Countries](#)

The search found 102 Actions

- ▶ CA16122 | Biomaterials 2017 - 14 March 2021
- ▶ CA16124 | Brillouin Light Scattering Applications | 28 February 2017
- ▶ CA15209 | European I... | 21 October 2015
- ▶ CA15216 | European I... | 21 October 2015
- ▶ CA15103 | Uncovering... | 21 October 2015
- ▶ CA15106 | C-H Activation... | 21 October 2015
- ▶ CA15135 | Multi-targeted... | 17 April 2016
- ▶ CM1404 | Chemistry of Smart Materials and Technologies | 2019
- ▶ CM1405 | Molecules in... | 2019
- ▶ CM1407 | Challenging... | 16 March 2015
- ▶ CM1401 | Our Astro-C... | 2015

Page 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

▶ show all Actions on one page

Join an Action

- As a Management Committee (MC) member
- As a Working Group (WG) participant
- As grantee of a Short Term Scientific Mission
- As grantee of a ITC Conference grant
- As trainer / trainee of a Training school
- As attendee of a Workshop/Conference
- ...

Advice

- Read the MoU and identify your interest / potential contribution
- Browse the Action's own website – check their activities



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Engage as proposer of a COST Action

COST Open Call

When?

Collection every 9 months
Next: 20 April 2018 – 12:00 CET

What?

One stage online submission of proposals
eCOST account

Who?

Main proposer
(and secondary proposers)

How many?

25 – 40 Actions approved
per collection

Online submission tool (e-COST)*

Overview

General Features

Technical Annex

References

COST Mission and Policies

Network

Documents

« My Proposals

Main Proposer Institution *

Brussels Free University - COST Country Institutions

Title (Maximum 12 words) *

Organ Donor Network

Acronym *

OrgDonNet

Keyword 1 *

Database

Keyword 2 *

Transplantation

Keyword 3 *

Donour

Keyword 4

Summary: Maximum 250 words

↶ ↷ B I x₂ x² Ω ☰ ☷ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☿

About five percent European citizens suffers from organ malfunctioning. Living donor transplantation is often the most effective treatment and the alternative of deceased donor transplantation is severely limited by availability. As approximately 50% of living donors are incompatible with their specified recipient, several European countries have independently developed organ exchange programmes.

Exchange programmes aim to match donors optimally to recipients for organ exchange within the population of recipient-donor pairs.

p Words: 68

AREAS OF EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR EVALUATION

Science Field

Health Sciences

Research Area

Health Services, Health Care Research


Proposal Reference:
OC-2017-1-21892

Proposal Status:
Draft

Checklist:
✓ General Features
✗ Technical Annex (1 issue)
✓ COST Policies
✗ Network (1 issue)

Generate PDF

Ready to submit?

 **cost**
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

*www.cost.eu/ecost

34

Proposals



General features

- Technical Annex
- 1. S&T excellence*
- 2. Impact
- 3. Implementation



COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy Specific objectives



Network of proposers



Eligibility!

Anonymous*
Min ITC
Format
Peaceful purpose
English

Open Call for proposals – Technical Annex

SECTIONS	SUB-SECTIONS
S&T EXCELLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Challenge■ Specific Objectives■ Progress beyond the State-of-the-art and Innovation Potential■ Added value of networking
IMPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Expected Impact■ Measures to Maximise Impact■ Potential for innovation versus risk level
IMPLEMENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Description of the Work Plan■ Management Structures & Procedures■ Network as a whole



Step 1: External remote evaluation

3 independent external experts
Technical Annex

Step 2: Revision and quality
check by Review Panels

Step 3: Selection by the Scientific
Committee
COST policy and objectives

Step 4: Approval by COST
committee of Senior Officials -
Results 7-8 months after submission

Evaluation - SESA

Evaluation criteria - step 1

S&T EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soundness of the challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific, technological and/or socio-economic impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress beyond the state-of-the-art and innovation potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to maximise impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriateness of management structures and procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added value of networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of risk and level of potential innovation/breakthroughs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network as a whole
Total Mark for the section: 25 points	Total Mark for the section: 20 points	Total Marks for the section: 20 points
TOTAL MARK AWARDED: 65 points OVERALL THRESHOLD: 45 points		

Open Call for proposals – key documents

e-COST

e-COST is a portal for COST Action participants' registration and financial reporting

▶ Link to e-COST portal

Source: cost.eu/opencall

- Online submission
- Guidelines
- Proposal template

Key Documents

▶ COST Open Call – Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) Guidelines (PDF, 236 kB)

▶ Technical Annex (DOCX, 176 kB)

Contact and engage with us

- Sign up to our news: www.cost.eu/subscribe
- Contact: opencall@cost.eu
- Join us on our social networks:



www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/



<https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/1050548/>



[@COSTprogramme](https://twitter.com/COSTprogramme)



<https://www.youtube.com/user/COSTOffice>

“ The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better. ”